

Class Requirements
Environmental Issues
Mr. Milazzotto

Welcome to Environmental Studies. In Environmental Issues, we will learn how the earth and the life on the earth work together, how we interact with the life, and how to deal with environmental problems. Environmental Issues is an interdisciplinary science. As a student of an interdisciplinary science, you must have some knowledge of the natural sciences and the social sciences. For this reason, a student should have already completed Physical Science and Biology. Hopefully, you have had some Earth Science in the past. **Also, a student must have passed the science portion of the Ohio Graduation Test.**

Some of you are taking this class to earn an elective credit, or you need this course for your third year of science for graduation, or you have decided to take Environmental Issues because it sounds interesting. This class will be interesting but more importantly, it will be relevant to you as an educated, voting citizen. Understanding your environment and the role that you play within the environment will have a dramatic impact for all life on our planet today and in the future. Being able to understand environmental issues is one of the most important reasons why students study the different areas of science while in high school.

This is not a lab course. You will be seeing many videotapes and DVD's that pertain to specific topics of study. While many of these are entertaining and interesting, **ALL** are important for the topics that we will be learning about. **I expect each student to pay very close attention.**

Textbook

All textbooks must be covered and remain covered throughout the year. Students are responsible for damaged or lost books. Your textbook must be brought to class everyday unless told to do otherwise. **There are many illustrations, tables, and charts that we will be making reference to during class discussions and lectures.**

Notes

You will receive a note-packet for each chapter. You will be responsible for filling missing vocabulary words, definitions, and other important data that will be discussed during lecture. These note-packets will be a valuable source of information in order to prepare for chapter tests.

Homework

You will have some homework for each chapter. Homework may include questions from the book and work sheets. All homework is graded and this grade becomes a very important part of your grade for the 9 weeks. Homework will be checked for completeness and accuracy. Normally, graded homework will be returned within 2 school days.

Homework may be assigned over vacation periods.

Current Events

Current issues in Environmental Issues will be an important part of this class. For this reason, you will be required to turn in 4 current event articles (approximately one every two weeks) for each grading period. The due dates will be given at the beginning of each grading period. The article may come from newspapers, periodicals, or downloaded from a web site. Along with the **hard copy of the article**, you must write a **summary**. At the beginning of the summary, you must give **the source of the article** and **date of publication**. **No article may be used if it was published before Aug. 23, 2010**. After the summary, you must write a **response** to the article explaining how you feel about the topic. I expect these to be well written and each will be graded accordingly.

Tests

You will have a test after each chapter. Test questions may come from the text, notes, lab activities, homework, and anything else covered in class. Tests will be announced at least 3 days in advance. There will be a mid-term and a final exam. Normally, test are graded and returned within 3 school days.

Quizzes

From time to time you may be given a quiz. Quizzes may be announced or not announced. Quizzes may cover homework, labs, notes, or a reading assignment.

Absences and tardiness

In order for each student to have his or her greatest success in this course, the student must be in class. Good attendance is essential for maximum success. Even missing a few days can potentially be detrimental to a student's grade. Whether the absence is excused or not excused, attendance is important. If you are absent, please have your parent or guardian follow the school board's policy regarding student absence. If a student's absence is not excused, the student's grade will be negatively affected. If you are late to class, you should have a pass or a very good excuse. If you have neither, I will follow the South High Tardy policy.

Make-up work and missed assignments

If you are absent and it is excused, it is your responsibility to find out from me what you have missed and when the work must be completed. Normally, you have as many days as you missed to make up work but if you should miss a great deal of school, you may be allowed to extend that time period. Quizzes are not made up if your absence is excused. If your absence is not excused, the grade is averaged in as a zero.

Cheating or copying

Cheating or copying will not be tolerated. When you are caught, you will receive an "E" or zero for that work and the office as well as your parents will be notified. This includes any **assignments, current event assignments, quizzes, or tests**.

Grading

Grading will be on a point system and a final percentage taken at the end of the grading period. You are required to maintain a grade sheet that will be part of your homework/lab journal grade. This will allow you to know your grade at any time during the grading period.

EXAMPLE: 5 tests	500 points	425 points
4 current event articles	100 points	95 points
20 homework assignments	100 points	100 points
<u>3 quizzes</u>	<u>60 points</u>	<u>50 points</u>
TOTAL	760 points	670 points

If you earned 670 points out of a possible 760 points, your grade will be figured in the following manner:

$$\frac{.882 \times 100\% = 88\% \text{ or a "B"}}{760 \mid 670}$$

A 93-100%

B 84-92%

C 71-83%

D 63-70%

F 62% or below

Homework will be graded and returned within 2 days. Quizzes and tests will be graded and returned within 3 days. All grades will be kept on a student's Grade Sheet that the student should maintain at all times. The Grade Sheet will be checked at interim time and at the end of each grading period.

Extra credit

Extra credit may be earned. It must be approved by the teacher and can only be done once each grading period. It will be due no later than 1 week before the end of the grading period. The maximum number of points that can be earned is 10. All homework must be complete for the grading period in order to be eligible to do extra credit. Instructions and guidelines for extra credit will be handed out at a later date and explained in detail. Extra copies will always be available.

A NOTE TO PARENTS:

To be successful in any science class, a student must learn the vocabulary. Any help the student receives at home with terms and definitions will be of great value. Test dates are given at least 3 days in advance and there is at least one test for each chapter. It is very important that the student studies at home for tests. Each student should have a Grade Sheet and it should be up to date at all times.